

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6 and 11 have been amended.

Claims 1 - 15 are present and pending in the subject application.

In the Office Action dated July 16, 2007, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 3, 6 - 8 and 11 - 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and has rejected claims 4 - 5, 9 - 10 and 14 - 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Favorable reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 3, 6 - 8 and 11 - 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,091,930 (Mortimer et al.).

Briefly, the present invention is directed toward a system, method and data storage device for creating and storing a content object in a data repository as a group of hierarchically related content entities. Each content entity is contained in a separate file object. A list or outline containing container and non-container identifiers defines the content, order and structure of the content object. This list or outline is stored as a separate file object.

In addition, the present invention provides prerequisite checking, wherein some content entities are associated, and selection by the user of an entity causes automatic inclusion of all associated prerequisite objects in the final compilation. In other words, prerequisite content is some material, A, that is required in a compilation when another piece of material, B, is included in the compilation. For example, material A is automatically added to (or removed from) the compilation when material B is added to (or removed from) the compilation.

The Examiner takes the position that the Mortimer et al. patent discloses all the features within these claims.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the subject application, independent claims 1, 6 and 11 have been amended and recite the features of: adding or removing a selected content entity to or from a list defining the content object to add or remove the selected content entity to or from the content object; a prerequisite content entity being associated with another content entity and designated for inclusion in the content objects for which that other content entity is selected and placed; the designations of the prerequisite content entities being stored external of the individual file objects containing the content entities; examining the stored designations of prerequisite content entities and determining if the selected content entity has any prerequisite content entities designated for that content entity; and adding or removing the designated prerequisite content entities to or from the list in accordance with the addition or removal of the selected content entity to add or remove the designated prerequisite content entities to or from the content object.

The Mortimer et al. patent does not disclose, teach or suggest these features. Rather, the Mortimer et al. patent discloses a customizable interactive text (CIT) book including an assembly of data modules that control the inputting, categorizing and formatting of educational data determined to be well-accepted principles. The well-accepted principles create a primary knowledge base stored as a professor CITbook (e.g., See Abstract). A professor can customize and modify the well-accepted knowledge base of the professor CITbook to generate a student CITbook (e.g., See Column 7, lines 5 - 8). A map module allows professors to define a preferred

presentation route through the knowledge base by creating data links between topics or objects (e.g., See Column 11, lines 62 - 66). A map generator further allows the professor to define and create a preferred map or sequence that is followed during a presentation of the material. The system processor executes the preferred or customized sequence by retrieving the data according to the links defined in the predetermined sequence (e.g., See Column 14, lines 14 - 17). A link manager controls the generation, assignment and modification of all data links between all the material stored in the professor and student CITbooks. In the professor CITbook, links are created in a predetermined or preferred sequence linking the material together to define a primary route through the chapters (e.g., See Column 18, line 61 to Column 19, line 3).

Thus, the Mortimer et al. patent discloses selection of various objects in a knowledge base that are associated by data links indicated by the user. However, there is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion of specific designations of prerequisite objects for other objects in the knowledge base or, for that matter, examining the stored designations, determining if a selected object has any prerequisite objects designated for the selected object and adding or removing the designated prerequisite objects to a content object as recited in the claims. In other words, the Mortimer et al. patent discloses that each object in the sequence through the knowledge base is selected individually by the user without additional designated objects being added to (or removed from) that linked sequence. Further, there is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion of defining a content object by a list indicating the user specified content and adding or removing designated prerequisite objects to the list (and content object) in accordance with the addition or

removal of the specific object to which the prerequisite objects are designated as recited in the claims.

Since the Mortimer et al. patent does not disclose, teach or suggest the features recited in independent claims 1, 6 and 11 as discussed above, these claims are considered to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 2 - 3, 7 - 8 and 12 - 13 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1, 6 or 11 and, therefore, include all the limitations of their parent claims. These claims are considered to be in condition for allowance for substantially the same reasons discussed above in relation to their parent claims and for further limitations recited in the claims.

The Examiner has rejected claims 4 - 5, 9 - 10 and 14 - 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Mortimer et al. patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,606,633 (Tabuchi).

The Examiner takes the position that the Mortimer et al. patent discloses all the features within these claims, except for reducing the rule set and rewriting negative rules as positive rules. The Examiner further alleges that the Tabuchi patent discloses these features and that it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of the Mortimer et al. and Tabuchi patents to attain the claimed invention.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Initially, claims 4 - 5, 9 - 10 and 14 - 15 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1, 6 or 11 and, therefore, include all the limitations of their parent claims. As discussed above, the Mortimer et al. patent does not disclose, teach or suggest: adding or removing a selected content entity to or from a list defining

the content object to add or remove the selected content entity to or from the content object; a prerequisite content entity being associated with another content entity and designated for inclusion in the content objects for which that other content entity is selected and placed; the designations of the prerequisite content entities being stored external of the individual file objects containing the content entities; examining the stored designations of prerequisite content entities and determining if the selected content entity has any prerequisite content entities designated for that content entity; and adding or removing the designated prerequisite content entities to or from the list in accordance with addition or removal of the selected content entity to add or remove the designated prerequisite content entities to or from the content object as recited in the claims.

The Tabuchi patent does not compensate for the deficiencies of the Mortimer et al. patent. Rather, the Tabuchi patent discloses a compound document management system and is merely utilized by the Examiner for an alleged teaching of reduction of a rule set and rewriting of rules.

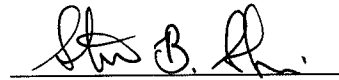
Since the Mortimer et al. and Tabuchi patents do not disclose, teach or suggest, either alone or in combination, the features recited in claims 4 - 5, 9 - 10, and 12 - 13 as discussed above, these claims are considered to be in condition for allowance.

AMENDMENT
Appln. No.: 09/488,969

Attorney Docket No.: STL000017US1 (0920.0040C)

The application, having been shown to overcome issues raised in the Office Action, is considered to be in condition for allowance and Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart B. Shapiro", is written over a horizontal line.

Stuart B. Shapiro
Reg. No. 40,169

EDELL, SHAPIRO & FINNAN, LLC
1901 Research Blvd., Suite 400
Rockville, Maryland 20850-3164
(301) 424-3640

Delivered on: _____